

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 MBFR-03 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 /160 W

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R 010920Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6350

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL TANGIER

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, UK, GI

SUBJECT: RUMORED INTERFERENCE WITH AIR TRAFFIC AT GIBRALTAR

REF: STATE 148220

1. SPANISH NAVY AND AIR FORCE SOURCES CONTACTED BY DATT AND EMB OFFICER FLATLY DENY BARRAGE BALLOONS HAVE BEEN RAISED NEAR GIBRALTAR AIRPORT. CHIEF OF THIRD SECTION OF SPANISH AIR STAFF SAID SUCH MOVE HAS NOT EVEN BEEN GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION SO FAR. ADDED THAT INITIATION OF SUCH MOVES, WHICH INVOLVE INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS SUCH AS ICAO AND BILATERAL CIVIL AIR AGREEMENTS, IS BASICALLY POLITICAL DECISION IN REALM OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE SAID THERE NOW SOME QUESTION WHETHER SPANISH MILITARY EVEN HAS BARRAGE BALLOONS IN ITS INVENTORY, NOTING THAT CURRENT JOKE IN MINISTRY IS THAT SPAIN MIGHT HAVE TO BUY BALLOONS FROM UK, WHICH IS CLOSEST SUPPLIER.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH DATT, OFFICER IN SPANISH NAVY MINISTRY SUGGESTED FALSE PRESS REPORTS MAY HAVE ORIGINATED FROM CONVERSATION BETWEEN BRITISH NAVAL ATTACHE AND SPANISH NAVY OFFICER IN WHICH LATTER JOKINGLY STATED "SPAIN MAY HAVE TO SURROUND AIRPORT
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IN GIBRALTAR WITH BALLOONS." ALSO POSSIBLE THAT VERY SPECULATIVE

LOCAL PRESS REPORTS EXAMINING POSSIBLE OPTIONS OPEN TO SPAIN COULD
HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY US PRESS.
RIVERO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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